

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 23-46 are in the case.

I. DRAWINGS

The drawings have been objected to for the reasons detailed on page 2 of the Action. In response, replacement drawings are submitted herewith in which Figure 1 has been designated by a legend "Prior Art". Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

II. THE FORMAL REJECTION

Claims 28, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for the reasons detailed on page 3 of the Action. In response, the claims which contain the phrase "preferably" have been amended to remove that expression and the cancelled subject matter is presented as new separate dependent claims.

Claim 41 has been objected to in view of the limitation "the treatment". In response, claim 41 has been amended to make it clear that the treatment being referred to is the treatment of the molten metal. Withdrawal of the formal rejection is respectfully requested.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

It is noted, with appreciation, that claims 23-37, 29-40, 43 and 44 are allowed and that claims 28, 41 and 42 are allowable once the formal matters have been

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resolved. In light of the amendments presented in this response, it believed that all of the claims are now in allowable condition. Early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Favorable action on this application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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